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— The report of P. W. Norris, superintendent of the Yellowstone National Park, describes the recent violent eruptions of a geyser which he calls the “Excelsior.” During much of the summer of 1881 this geyser sent up to a height of from 100 to 300 feet, sufficient water to render the rapid Fire Hole river, nearly 100 yards wide, a foaming torrent of steaming hot water, and hurled rocks of from one to one hundred pounds’ weight around the edges of the crater. When the geyser is not in motion the column of steam rising from the crater forms a conspicuous landmark in the park. A new map of the park accompanies the report.

— At the last meeting of the Quekett Microscopical Club, Mr. F. Enock explained a new method of protecting cells from damage by external pressure upon the cement, his device consisting of a small metallic ring of angular section, which at the same time fitted closely round the cell and overlapped the margin of the cover-glass. It was believed that when placed in position and properly cemented round it would effectually prevent the escape of glycerine.

— Professor DuBois Raymond, in a recent address before the surgeons of the French army, adopts the dynamic theory of heredity originally proposed by Cope in 1871, and subsequently elaborated by Haeckel under the name of perigenesis. He does not credit either of these naturalists.

— The milk of the elephant, according to Dr. Charles Doremus (America), is the richest that he has ever examined, containing less water and more butter and sugar than any other. It has a very agreeable taste and odor.

— Dr. William A. Hammond has recently read a paper on the mental constitution of Guiteau, in which he takes the ground advocated by the *NATURALIST* in its August, 1881, number.

— The Naturalist Brazilian Exploring Expedition, under Mr. Herbert Smith, left Rio for the interior, Jan. 1, 1882.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. Dec. 5.—At this meeting Professor Davidson again presided after an absence of several months in the field in connection with the work of the U. S. Coast Survey. There was a large attendance. Among the donations to the museum was one from E. F. Gerald of a fine specimen of vanadinite, the first discovered in the Pacific States or Territories. It was found forty-five miles above Yuma. Dr. W. F. McAllister presented an aboriginal skull, taken many feet below the surface at Mount Goat, Tombstone District. Captain C. L. Hooper of the *Corwin* donated two specimens of Emperor

geese and a moosehead, with horns attached, from the Yukon river, in Alaska. John G. Lemmon described a new species of gentian, which he discovered in September last on the summit of the Chiricahua mountains, in Southeastern Arizona, and which on account of its small flower-cups, he named *Gentiana microcalyx*. It was a valuable acquisition to the cultivated flora, besides having valuable medicinal properties as a tonic. Robert E. C. Stearns read a suggestive paper on the growth of certain California forest trees, and meteorological data suggested thereby. The death of Henry Chapman, the taxidermist and curator of mammals and birds of the Academy, was announced, and resolutions of respect to his memory were adopted.

THE SAN DIEGO SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY held its eighth annual meeting in the new building recently erected by the Society, on Sixth street, November 18, 1881, the President, Dr. G. W. Barnes, in the chair. There was a good attendance of members, and of visitors on invitation.

Mr. C. J. Fox exhibited an Indian relic, probably a medicine tube, from Temecula cañon. Mr. O. N. Sanford exhibited an enormous beetle from Africa.

The president gave the substance of a communication from Mr. Henry Hemphill, of Oakland (now of San Diego), addressed to Mr. Tryon, and by him submitted to the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences, describing a species of *Acmaea* collected by him, which was also presented to the Academy of Sciences. Mr. Hemphill had discovered that the *Acmaea pelta* and *Nacella instabilis* were identical, apparent differences depending on stages of growth and effect of station. It is regarded as an interesting addition to our limpets. Annual reports of the librarian, treasurer and president were made.

STATE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF ILLINOIS.—The annual meeting was held at Champaign, February 28 to March 2, 1882. About thirty members were present, with an unusually good local attendance. Twenty-two papers were presented, nineteen of which were read. Mr. Wm. McAdams gave an account of the religion of the mound builders, as indicated by idols and other relics of a religious character, and also described the "Great Cahokia Mound," opposite St. Louis, and other mounds of that vicinity, giving the results of a recent survey of the group. Mr. F. S. Earle described the mounds of a part of south-eastern Missouri, explored by him last autumn for the Smithsonian Institution. Mr. F. M. Webster gave an account of the appearance and movements of the Army Worm in north-eastern Illinois, in 1881. Mr. S. A. Forbes described the lateral organs of blind fishes and reported the results of a series of observations and experiments on the first food of the white fish. Mr. J. A. Armstrong described the life history of a jelly fish; and Mr. C. W. Butler contributed a number

of notes on the habits of animals and described the effect of the poison of snakes upon red blood-corpuscles, as determined by his recent experiments. Mr. A. B. Seymour read a paper on methods of field work on parasitic fungi. Professor T. J. Burrill reported the normal occurrence of bacteria in the juices of plants, which act as ferment poisons on man, and also explained some recent improvements made in microscope objectives, and Mr. C. W. Rolfe gave the results of some experiments made by him on the directions taken by the roots of germinating seeds, and some observations on the number of rings exhibited by cross sections of the wood of trees of known age. The latter gentleman likewise read a paper on the improvement of methods of science teaching in the public schools. Dr. Edward Evans described the rock system of Northern Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa, as indicated by records of deep borings, and gave a theory of the artesian water supply of this region; and Professor D. C. Taft delivered a lecture on the fossil tracks of the Connecticut valley. Mr. James Forsythe read an abstract of the proceedings of the last meeting of the Industrial University Natural History Society, and Professor N. C. Ricker described and illustrated the "blue process" of copying manuscript, drawings, plates, etc., by photography. The evening of Wednesday was devoted to a reception given to the society by the faculty and students of the university, an interesting feature of which was a fine microscope display, given jointly by the society and the university. The officers selected for the ensuing year were: President, Dr. J. W. Taylor, Kankakee; Secretary, S. A. Forbes, Normal; Treasurer, Tyler McWhorter, Aledo; Vice-Presidents, Professor T. J. Burrill, Champaign, and Hon. William McAdams, Otterville, and additional members of the Executive Committee, Dr. Edwin Evans, Streator, and Dr. E. R. Boardman, Elmira. The reports of the Secretary and Treasurer showed that the society was in a flourishing condition as to funds and membership.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY, February 15.—Mr. S. Carr remarked on the Indians as mound-builders, and Mr. W. M. Davis concluded his paper on the origin of lake-basins—the "obstruction type."

MARCH 1.—Dr. W. S. Bigelow spoke of some points in connection with the theory of spontaneous generation and the life-history of the lowest organism.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, March 6.—Mr. W. E. Hidden remarked on a phenomenal "pocket" of quartz crystals containing inclusions of water and carbon dioxide. Mr. N. H. Darton read some notes on the Weehawken tunnel.

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB, Boston, March 9.—Professor G. L. Vose made a communication on the relation of mountains

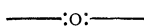
to the construction of railways. The president exhibited a new map of a portion of Japan, on porcelain.

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, February 24.—Mr. George Kennan lectured on Siberia.

MIDDLESEX INSTITUTE, January 11, 1882.—Mr. Herbert Gleason read a paper on Structural geology as illustrated by the formation of the American continent. E. H. Capen, president of Tufts College, Professor John P. Marshall and Dr. A. S. Packard, Jr., were elected honorary members.

February 8.—President Dame read a paper on Schools of forestry. A paper from Warren H. Manning, of Reading, on the cultivation of trees, was read by the secretary, and followed by a general discussion. The executive committee announced a course of instructive lectures in the different departments of botany for the remainder of the winter season.

February 15.—Professor Edward S. Morse delivered a lecture on the Ancient glaciers of North America.



SELECTED ARTICLES IN SCIENTIFIC SERIALS.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SCIENCE, March.—Gold-bearing rocks of the province of Minas Geraes, Brazil, by O. A. Derby. The flood of the Connecticut River valley from the melting of the Quaternary glacier, by J. D. Dana. Geographical distribution of certain fresh-water mollusks of North America, and the probable causes of their variation, by A. G. Wetherby. Description of a new genus of the order Eurypterida from the Utica slate, by C. D. Walcott. Notice of the remarkable marine fauna occupying the outer banks off the southern coast of New England, No. 4, by A. E. Verrill. Origin of jointed structure in undisturbed clay and marl deposits, by J. LeConte.

GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE, February.—*Cyrena fluminalis* at Summertown, near Oxford, by J. Prestwich. On *Spermophilus* beneath the glacial till in Norfolk, by E. T. Newton. Supplement to a chapter in the history of meteorites, by W. Flight. Traces of a great post-glacial flood, by H. H. Howorth (concluded).